1	2	3	4	5
4.	Hydro-generation potential (Mega Watt at 60% Load Factor)			
	(i) Total potential	26756	1176	1070
	(ii) Potential developed	8.33	73.17	121.67

(c) Yes, Sir. In addition to plan allocations Central Loan Assistance of Rs. 4.30 crores has been provided for Khuga Irrigation Project of Manipur during 1996-97 under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme. No Central assistance is provided for Hydro-Projects in the State-sector.

[Translation]

Cooking Gas Bottling Plants

1785. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ratio of the cooking gas bottling plants in Gujarat is minimum as compared with the population of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government to set up new bottling plants in Gujarat; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir. At present there are 91 LPG bottling plants operating in the country with total bottling capacity of 3457 TMTPA. Out of these, following six bottling plants are operating in the State of Gujarat.

Location	Capacity (TMTPA)
Rajkot	44
Hazira	44
Koyali	102
Surat	12
Gandhinagar	26
Ahmedabad	34
Total	262

In addition to the above, one bottling plant with a capacity of 66 TMTPA has been commissioned recently at Ahmedabad.

(b) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) In addition to the bottling plants as mentioned in (a) above, IOC is setting up a bottling plant at Gandhar with a bottling capacity of 68 TMTPA against part resitement of Koyali bottling plant and one LPG bottling plant at Bhavnagar with a capacity of 44 TMTPA, under VIII Plan.

[English]

Airports in North-East

1786. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to make Guwahati Airport as the "Hub" of air service for entire North-East;

(b) if so, when and the details thereof;

(c) whether Silchar Airport is likely to be augmented soon facilitating landing and take-off flights; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Guwahati is planned to be made a regional hub for the North-East. Upgradation of facilities at Guwahati Airport is an ongoing process.

(c) and (d) Airports Authority of India has already initiated action to replace the existing Very high frequency Omni Range (VOR) by Doppler Very high frequency Omni Range (DVOR) colocated with Distance Measuring Equipment (DME) at a cost of Rs. 101.26 lakhs. The work is likely to be completed by November, 1997.

Telugu Ganga Project

1787. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Water Commission refused to give hydrological clearance for prestigious multi-purpose Telugu Ganga Project;

(b) the main reasons to put forward by the Union Government;

(c) the steps taken by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to meet the need of the Union Government for its approval; and

(d) the time proposed to be taken by the State Government to get the projects cleared after its due clarification from the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) The Central Water Commission has not given clearance to Telugu Ganga Project so far.

(b) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has been able to sort out inter-state issues.

(c) and (d) The Project will be cleared by the Union Government as soon as the inter-state issues are resolved.

Operation of Foreign Airlines to Calcutta

1788. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY :
SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approached any foreign airlines to operate international flight from Calcutta Airport in the interest of the Eastern and North East States during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the difficulties to divert some international flights from Delhi and Mumbai to Calcutta;

(d) whether any steps have been initiated in that direction;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, reasons for the dealy?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (f) The Government of India is offering various incentives to foreign airlines to operate to Calcutta, like the ability to combine Calcutta with other prime gate-ways, liberal fifth freedom rights, liberal terms of commercial agreements etc. During 1996-97, Calcutta has been offered as a point of call to the designated airlines of Armenia, Switzerland, Slovak Republic and Indonesia. Australia was granted facility to combine Calcutta with Delhi or Mumbai with effect from 16.10.96. The actual operations are, however, left to the commercial judgement of the airlines.

Direct Flight from Calicut to Mumbai

1789. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any direct flight from Calicut to Mumbai domestic airport operated by Indian Airlines;

(b) if not, the reasons for not operating such flight;

(c) whether the Government are aware that domestic passengers are put to difficulties since the Calicut-Mumbai flight operated by Indian Airlines is landing at Sahara International Airport;

(d) whether the private Airlines operating on this sector is flying with full capacity;

(e) whether it is true that certain officials in the Indian Airlines are colluding with private airlines to scuttle I.A. operation from Calicut to Mumbai Domestic Airport; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Due to aircraft capacity constraints, Indian Airlines is not in a position to introduce a direct flight from Calicut to Mumbai domestic airport.

(c) Indian Airlines has not received any complaint/ representation regarding the difficulties being faced by the passengers.

(d) The average seat factor of Jet Airways on Calicut-Mumbai sector during the month of June, 1997 is 85.9%.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Direct Flight between Chennai and New York

1790. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any long pending demand to introduce direct flight between Chennai and New York; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereto and the reasons for the delay in operating the said flight?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Requests are received from time to time for introduction of direct flights from Chennai to New York.

(b) Air India operates one flight from Chennai to New York as a through flight with change of aircraft in Mumbai. One more flight offers an immediate connection to New York over Mumbai. On both these flights, Customs and Immigration formalities can be completed at Chennai. Air India also provides three other connections per week between Chennai and New York over Mumbai. Air India will consider operation of direct flights between Chennai and New York, depending upon availability of additional capacity and commercial and operational viability.

Conservation of Temples

1791. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations about conservation of a group of temples at village Pathra in the district of Midnapore, West Bengal;